COMMANDERS DIGEST

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Ass't. Sec. Selden Tells Students

Latin American Problems Of Concern To United States

Latin America is an area of the world that should, and does, hold a special interest for the United States. As a consequence, its problems are a concern to the U.S.

These problems are two-fold. First, they [the Latin American countries] have to move forward on many fronts to promote economic development, more equitable distribution of income, and more and better services to their people. At the same time, in order to maintain an atmosphere conducive to economic and social progress, they have to maintain an adequate measure of internal security and stability.

This was the theme of an address by Armistead I. Selden Jr., Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Affairs), before a symposium on Latin America at Birmingham-Southern College in Birmingham, Ala., Oct. 12.

There are three outstanding reasons for our common interests and concerns. These are:

—Geographic proximity.

—Common security interests.

—Regional institutions and accords.

More obvious security interests in the area include:

—Possibility that the area could become a base from which strategic missiles could be launched.

—Continued access to the Panama Canal.

—Access to key military facilities in the Caribbean.

Also, vital to the United States is a friendly and sympathetic relationship with the governments of Latin America. To the extent that violent extremism, insurgency, nationalism and radicalism threaten the stability of the area, these forces pose potential threats to our interests.

Although the picture in the area is not bright, it is not without hope. Terrorism and guerilla activities are on the decline and those governments that have been afflicted with these troubles have coped with them.

Serious Problems

The most serious problems of the area are that economic and social advances do not meet expectations, and concern for these failures overshadows the Latin Americans' concern for long-range security matters. This is caused, in part, by the very closeness of the United States and its size, sometimes diverting their attention from a growing Soviet presence. Because of these differing points of view, U.S. and Latin American answers to problems may also differ.

At the same time, the inter-action of existing divisive forces, combined with the expansion of unfriendly external influences, could adversely affect the U.S.

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HAPPY MOMENT. Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird, right, congratulates Assistant Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) Robert C. Moot following the announcement that Mr. Moot was named co-winner of one of the $10,000 Rockefeller Public Service Awards for 1971. (See Story on Page 7). (DoD Photo by PHC Thomas J. Mackesy, USN)

LATIN AMERICA

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position in the area and, ultimately, throughout the world.

Strong Political Interest

As regards Chile or any Latin American government, the U.S. has a strong political interest in maintaining cooperation with all, regardless of their domestic viewpoints. Although the United States has a preference for free and democratic processes, its relations depend not on their internal structures or social systems, but on actions which affect us and the Inter-American system.

The new government in Chile, with its announced goals of becoming a Marxist State, can bring about far-reaching changes in that country with possible accompanying complications within the Inter-American system.

Based upon the principle of continental solidarity, the Rio Treaty of 1947 stated, "An armed attack by any State against an American State shall be considered an attack against all the American States and, consequently, each one undertakes to assist in meeting the attack."

Similarly, the Charter of the Organization of American States, adopted in 1948, reaffirmed that aggression against one American State "is an act of aggression against all the other American States." This framework of continental security has adapted to changing conditions and has effectively preserved the peace of the hemisphere. The U.S. will continue to support the OAS and will count on all OAS member nations—of which Chile is one—to help the system remain effective.

Cuba's even closer proximity to the U.S. accounts for much U.S. interest over the years. Premier Fidel Castro's takeover of Cuba, and later involvement with the Soviets, has posed a threat to the security of the entire hemisphere.

Isolation of Cuba

With this in mind, the U.S. favors economic, political and psychological isolation of that nation. This is consistent with OAS policy, since Castro's aggressive actions in promoting revolutionary movements in other Latin nations were, and are, in violation of the OAS Charter. Premier Castro's military alliance with the Soviet Union was, and is, a violation of the aims of the Rio Treaty for an "Inter-American Peace System."

Premier Castro's policy of support for violent revolution in other nations of the hemisphere has not changed, although he appears to have become more selective as to his support. Less than two months ago, he vigorously reaffirmed that he would not abandon his support for violent revolution in other nations of the hemisphere and spoke of his intention to give material support to Bolivian guerillas. Premier Castro has repeatedly stated that Cuba would never rejoin the OAS. As recently as July, 1971, he stated, "We do not belong, nor shall we belong, to the OAS."

The missile crisis of 1962 and the more recent developments last year at Cienfuegos underline the United States' concern about Cuban military ties with the Soviet Union. The presence of Soviet submarines in that Cuban port would have opened the way for Soviet offensive weapons in this hemisphere. President Richard Nixon stated last February, this would have been contrary to the earlier understanding between the Soviet Union and the United States following the missile crisis. Only after a period of discussion with the Soviet Union did the U.S. reaffirm its understanding and amplify it to make clear that the agreement included activities related to sea-based systems.

Reduction of Capability

The purpose of the OAS sanctions, behind which the U.S. firmly stands, is not the overthrow of the Cuban regime but the reduction of the Cuban capability to export armed revolution and to discourage Soviet adventures in the hemisphere.

One important security interest in Latin America is the unimpeded use of the Panama Canal by U.S. ships as well as the ships of all nations.

The operation and defense of the Panama Canal are based, in part, on a 1903 treaty. With many changes in the intervening 60 years, President Nixon has determined that it will be useful to review our defense requirements and commercial interests in this area in an effort to develop a new treaty relationship with Panama.

It is the hope of the U.S. that a treaty can be drafted on the basis of common interest and mutual benefits that will preserve our security interests and resolve points of friction between the U.S. and Panama.

In recent years, the Soviet Union and other Communist nations have significantly increased their presence in Latin America, both through the expansion of economic and diplomatic relations and through increased Soviet naval activity in the Caribbean. While not large, the trade has strongly favored nations of the area and thus encouraged closer commercial ties. Communist nations have 55 resident trade offices in 13 Latin American countries. Of these, 11 are from the USSR.

Missions Have Increased

Communist diplomatic missions have increased from 40, in early 1968, to 46 today. With particularly impressive gains, the Soviets now have relations with all South American nations except Paraguay; only five small Central American and Caribbean nations have no formal ties with the Communist nations.

The Soviets' efforts to present an image of respectability has been helped by the relative smallness of the Soviet profile. Growing nationalism is increasing Latin American desire for less dependence on the U.S. Our restrictions on U.S. military sales and interruptions in grant aid have impeded our traditionally friendly relations with the Latin American military. This situation has helped Communist nations to gain access to the Latin American military.

Others will follow the Soviet military attaches to Peru, Bolivia, Mexico and Argentina. Where this Soviet expansionism will lead is anyone's guess, but as

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COMMANDERS DIGEST

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Secretary Laird Tells AUSA Group:

U.S. Army Must Be Ready To Meet Future Challenge

Although resistance to change is normal and understandable, the Army is, and must be, moving to meet the challenge. It is, in fact, leading the way.

Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird, in a speech Oct. 11 to the Association of the U. S. Army, said, "Our armed forces are caught up in a swirl of change, induced, in part, by changes in our society and, in part, by changes in the world outside our borders."

Changes within the Services are spearheaded by such innovations as Zero Draft, an All-Volunteer Force, and by the new dimension of importance attached to the National Guard and Reserve forces.

Progress already made and the prospects for the future indicate that the goal of reducing draft calls to zero by July 1, 1973 is attainable.

A Zero Draft, however, will not work unless the "Total Force Concept" works as well. Total Force Concept is a central feature of the National Security Strategy of Realistic Deterrence and has particular interest and application in the Army.

Reserve Elements

Although Reserve elements in Fiscal Year 1969 made up 29 per cent of the Army—this will be increased in FY 1974 to 45 per cent.

Throughout the 1960s, particularly with the massive buildup in Vietnam, the National Guard and Reserve forces were either neglected or stripped of much essential equipment. This has been changed.

The investment in equipment to support training and mobilization requirements has been tremendously increased. The Army has issued more than $1 billion worth of combat-serviceable equipment to the Army Guard and Reserve during FY 1970 and FY 1971. This is a reversal of the trend during the five-year period ending in 1969 which saw the amount of useful mobilization equipment in these areas actually decline by millions of dollars.

Equipment issues in FY 1972 are expected to equal or exceed the $727 million worth issued in FY 1971. In addition, the Army has programmed special funds for the rehabilitation of repairable combat-serviceable equipment in depots to accelerate closure of the Reserve components' equipment gap. The upgrading of Reserve equipment also includes the allocation of significant numbers of modern helicopters to ensure that the tactics and doctrine developed in Southeast Asia can be utilized, if needed, by the Reserve through the forward-looking Reserve Component Aviation Program.

New Policies

There will be an emphasis on implementing new policies that demand increased reliance on the National Guard and Reserve forces in the event of any future emergency. The Congress, in passing the Selective Service Act, gave its affirmation to the policy of relying, not on the draft, but on the National Guard and Reserve forces for any rapid military manpower increases in a future emergency.

Another new and important policy for the future effectiveness of the "Total Force Concept" is the objective of having the National Guard and Reserve units able to deploy with regular units on quick notice—either in training or in actual emergency. This will make possible National Guard and Reserve battalions and brigades that can be sent to Europe or other trouble areas without months of delay.

These actions, taken to improve National Guard and Reserve forces, are across-the-board actions affecting all the Services—Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps. All actions indicate that

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CANADIAN ENLISTED MAN HONORED. Canadian Armed Forces Master Corporal Peter Engbrecht, right, an air defense technician and radar site on-the-job training supervisor, is presented a plaque honoring him for his work with the North American Air Defense Command (NORAD) by U.S. Air Force General Seth J. McKee, NORAD Commander-in-Chief. The Canadian military man, who was personally awarded the Conspicuous Gallantry Medal by King George VI for his success (8½ kills) as a gunner on a bomber during World War II, has worked with NORAD longer than any other person—since it was first organized in September, 1957. (Official NORAD Photo)

— U.S. Executive Guidance Series —

This is the third in a series of articles to appear in Commanders Digest written by top officials within the United States Government. These articles span a variety of important subjects which have a continuing bearing on our Nation and its youth—from the Executive branch of Government point of view.

—The Broad Common Ground We Share—

By DONALD E. JOHNSON
Administrator of Veterans Affairs

For all the animosity that exists between many young people and the Administration, it is unfortunate that the broad common ground that both share is totally overlooked. The common goal is a deep seated concern to make government, particularly the Federal government, responsive to the needs of the country.

One of the greatest untold stories of Washington is the efforts of the Administration to try to move the ponderous bureaucratic machinery in many of the same directions so clearly articulated by the young. The agency which I head, the Veterans Administration (VA), is only one example of the continuing efforts to make government truly responsive to the needs of the people. The plight of the returning Vietnam veteran is a case in point.

The VA was basically redesigned and restaffed to fulfill the needs of masses of returning World War II and later Korean veterans. However, sharp demands on the agency lessened and the staff hired immediately after World War II grew older. The agency continued routine operation with no problems, but a combination of the rapid social change of the 1960s and the controversy of the Vietnam War generated enormous and extremely complex new demands on VA's resources.

Major Concern

This was the situation when the current administration took office and Vietnam veterans were beginning to return in overwhelming numbers. In short, the major concern we had was to make government responsive to the needs of Vietnam veterans. Indeed, the generation gap became a major internal problem in the operation of the VA.

There are many solutions that have been implemented to move the agency and its employes along the same paths of rapid social change that the country has taken since the mid-1960s. Some solutions have aimed to increase the awareness of the top management of the VA to the striking differences in the Vietnam veteran life style. Massive human relations seminars were conducted with over 2,000 of the top personnel of the agency attending.

But the major focus of our efforts has been a realization of the alliance be-

tween the desire for responsiveness in both the young and the administration. We have instituted a comprehensive program to integrate young VA employes into the decision-making process as rapidly as possible. In this way, we hope to gain from youthful solutions to the problems with which we are now faced.

Youth Program

The Youth Program in the VA has two major goals:

—To educationally expose younger employes to the internal operation of the VA.

—To provide a youthful input into the decision-making process by placing representative young employes in close proximity to positions of authority and policy making.

Not only do the young employes consider questions relating directly to themselves, but they also are especially helpful in assisting the VA to better relate to such beneficiaries as their peer group —the Vietnam veteran. In addition, young employes are given the opportunity to help determine priorities in non-youth related operations.

The entire project was instituted in November, 1970, and is coordinated from my office by a 23-year old project coordinator and a two-man staff (both are under 35). This staff forms the core of the 18-member Administrator's Committee on Youth which is the primary steering committee for youth activities with the VA. All members of this committee are under 35 years of age and represent each of the three major departments, the staff offices located in the VA Central Office and the hospitals, regional offices, and data processing centers that make up the VA benefits delivery system. Only eight members of the committee are located in Washington, D.C., with the rest scattered throughout the country.

Responsible for Youth

The Administrator's Committee on Youth is responsible for youth input at the top policy levels of the VA and their activities include participation in the Administrator's staff meetings, department and staff briefings, and intra-agency budget hearings. Also, independent projects of special interest to youth are

initiated by the committee with approval of the administrator.

All department and staff offices located in the central office have individual youth committees elected by all employes under 35 and representatives of the youth committees attend meetings on the department and staff level that parallel the activities of the Administrator's Committee on Youth.

The 10 field members of the committee were originally elected by youth representatives of various VA field stations in regional conferences held in January, 1971, and regionally coordinate the activities of the 225 field station youth committees. Young employes at each hospital, regional office and data processing center meet once every six months to select their representatives to the field station youth committee. Each committee is represented at station director conferences and staff meetings and participates in station operating committees.

Designed to Improve

Additional activities include projects selected either locally or nationally by the administrator's committee which are designed to improve the attractiveness of the VA to both young employes and young beneficiaries.

Approximately 3,000 young employes are actively involved in the youth program in the VA.

Yet, as comprehensive as these efforts are, they are still just a beginning. The Vietnam Veteran was not the cause of the "responsiveness gap" in the VA, but rather only a symptom that dramatized a much deeper problem. If the responsiveness gap is to be bridged during this Administration or any future Administration, a public awareness of this problem must be developed. Neither this Administration nor the young can afford the luxury of ignoring the many benefits this alliance can accomplish.

Only through a true atmosphere of partnership can both realize the common goal of a government responsive to the needs of "the people" in a volatile society.

Alien Registration Set For January

Aliens in the United States, by Federal law, must report their address to the U.S. Government during the month of January.

Immigration and Naturalization Servive (INS) officials urged aliens who have never reported their address to do so at once, and then also report again in January. Failure to comply with registration regulations could mean serious penalties for the offender, they pointed out.

Address report card forms are available at any U.S. Post Office or INS Office.

Parents should prepare cards for alien children under age 14.

The alien registration number should be included in the space indicated on the card form.

Completed cards may be returned to the Post Office clerk or mailed to the nearest INS office.

All U.S. resident aliens residing outside the U.S. on Jan. 1 do not have to report their addresses until their return, and then must do so within 10 days.

Alien persons, including military personnel, stationed or residing in Alaska, Guam, Puerto Rico, Hawaii and the Virgin Islands are considered to be in the United States for reporting purposes.

Proposed Legislation Seeks Military Health Professions University For DoD

A bill to establish a military health professions university was being worked through the legislative process in mid-November. The legislation—H.R. 2—a bill to create a Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, passed the House Nov. 3. Presently it is awaiting clearance by the Office of Management and Budget, following which it will be returned to the House Armed Services Committee for further action.

The Military Departments have experienced critical shortages of qualified health-profession personnel in recent years, necessitating heavy reliance on the Selective Service System's general and special "doctor" drafts to fulfill military health manpower needs.

H.R. 2, if enacted, would form the basis for new and imaginative programs that are felt to be needed to obtain and retain scarce categories of professional men and women.

25-Mile Radius of D.C.

The provisions of H.R. 2 would establish a Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences within a 25-mile radius of the District of Columbia at a site or sites to be selected by the Secretary of Defense. The university would be governed by a Board of Regents, which, subject to the approval of the Secretary of Defense, could enter into an agreement by which the university would become a part of a National University of Health Sciences—if such is established in or near the District of Columbia.

Annual and supplemental appropriations, without statutory ceilings other than for construction, would be authorized for the Department of Defense for the planning, development, improvement, operation and maintenance of the university.

Voiced Strong Support

Many Defense Department officials—including Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird, who has voiced strong support for the bill—believe that H.R. 2 would give military health professions access to many benefits of academic medicine—including adequate opportunities for continuing education, which would be made an integral part of the proposed university's programs.

It is also felt that such a military health professions university would contribute to the quality of health services provided to servicemen and women and their dependents.

Scholarship Program

H.R. 2 also will complement earlier proposed legislation that would establish a DoD scholarship program for students in the health professions.

The scholarship proposal would create programs whereby students in health professions would receive professional education at civilian schools while on active duty in the armed forces, receiving pay and allowances appropriate to their grade. DoD would be authorized, under the scholarship program, to pay for tuition, fees and educational services.

While H.R. 2 would have important long-range benefits on DoD medical programs, the scholarship bill would close a time gap pending the establishment of an All-Volunteer Force.

Volume Capability

The scholarship proposal would also provide volume capability; through cooperative programs with civilian institutions, DoD would be able to obtain far greater numbers of graduates from civilian programs than could be produced through military programs—particularly during the critical initial years of the All-Volunteer Force.

Secretary Laird's views were voiced for strong approval of H.R. 2 in a statement read in his absence Sept. 21 to the House Armed Services Committee by Dr. Richard S. Wilbur, Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health and Environment).

FUTURE CHALLENGE

(Continued From Page 3)

the Guard and Reserve will no longer be treated as step-children.

Need for Innovation

Also, in keeping with the need for innovation and imagination, the Services were recently provided, for their comment, a report of the Office, Secretary of Defense, Reserve Components Study Group. This group, headed by Army Major General Ellis W. Williamson, developed innovative concepts which could increase the value and readiness of the Guard and Reserve as part of the Total Force Concept. Some of its concepts were major and controversial departures from tradition.

The Army will carefully evaluate the study and, if appropriate, field test its provisions to determine whether application could result in improved Guard and Reserve readiness.

This new thinking is intended to adapt the Nation's armed forces to the principles of the Nixon Doctrine and its support of the National Security Strategy of Realistic Deterrence. This Doctrine and Strategy reflect two important conclusions:

First, the United States cannot, and must not, turn away from its role as a leader in the Free World.

Second, in the face of the strategic, manpower, fiscal, and political realities, the Nation must change the way in which it fulfills its leadership role.

Adequate Strength

This role, under the new strategy, demands that the United States maintain adequate strength for U.S. forces in the years ahead.

"I have said before, and would repeat now, my belief that the American people, today, may perhaps be willing to accept strategic parity. But I can conceive of no circumstance in which the American people would accept inferiority," Secretary Laird stressed.

To avoid this inferiority, the peacetime forces must be sufficiently strengthened and this Nation must also maintain leadership in research and technology. Finally, the American people must recognize the contributions of the Nation's armed forces.

Latin American Problems Concern To United States

(Continued From Page 2)

Soviet presence increases, the U.S. faces the danger of a lessening of our influence.

Provide Own Security

In keeping with the Nixon Doctrine of mature partnership, the U.S. relies primarily on Latin American efforts to provide their own security within the umbrella afforded by U.S. strategic forces. The Latin American military will continue to play an important political role and the U.S. must take steps necessary to preserve its influence.

One way of fostering good will among Latin American military leaders is through personal contact with senior U.S. military and defense officials. Reciprocal visits by younger Latin American officers should also be encouraged. Combined military exercises and participation in regional military conferences also help to foster understanding.

In addition to U.S. attaches who serve at all Latin American embassies, the U.S. has military missions in 16 nations. at their request. They provide representation, advice and assistance under our security assistance program. In each country, they are members of the country team and are under the U.S. Ambassador.

Many benefits accrue to the U.S. from these military groups:

—They provide advice to our Ambassadors and to the host country.

—They establish a relationship of mutual trust and confidence among the armed forces.

—They carefully administer our small, but highly important, security assistance program.

We should send our very best people to represent the United States in Latin America in order to carry out President Nixon's hemispheric policy "to act compassionately, to work cooperatively and to strengthen the bonds of a maturing partnership."

Ass't Secretary Moot Shares $10,000 As Co-Winner Of 1971 Rockefeller Award

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) Robert C. Moot, for 25 years a skilled analyst and an architect of the financial management structure of the Nation's military establishment, was named Nov. 14 as co-winner of one of the $10,000 Rockefeller Public Service Awards for 1971.

Mr. Moot, 60, divides the tax-free Rockefeller Award in the area of "Administration" with another veteran Government careerist, Samuel M. Cohn, Assistant Director for Budget Review, Office of Management and Budget. The awards will be presented Dec. 8 at the annual Rockefeller Awards Luncheon in Washington, D.C.

The awards, conceived and financed by John D. Rockefeller 3rd and administered as a national trust by Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, are the highest privately-sustained honors for Federal career service.

On August 1, 1968, Mr. Moot became the fifth person to hold the post of Assistant Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) in the Department of Defense.

In addition to Mr. Moot and Mr. Cohn, other 1971 recipients of the Rockefeller Awards include:

—Miss Mary Lee Mills, Nurse-Consultant with the Community Health Service, Department of Health, Education and Welfare, who will receive the award for her work in the area of human resource development and protection;

—Mr. Joseph J. Sisco, Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, U.S. Department of State, for his work in intergovernmental operations;

—Dr. Luna B. Leopold, Senior Research Hydrologist, U.S. Geological Survey, Department of the Interior, for physical source development and protection; and

—Mr. Robert Solomon, Advisor to the Board of Governors and Director, Division of International Finance, Federal Reserve System, for professional accomplishment and leadership.

AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR AND MISSING IN ACTION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA
(as of 6 Nov 1971)

By Country:

	Missing	Captured	Total
NVN	407	378	785
SVN	478	82	560
LAOS	251	3	254
TOTALS	1,136	463	1,599

By Service:

	Missing	Captured	Total
Army	375	63	438
Navy	108	143	251
Marine Corps	91	23	114
Air Force	562	234	796
TOTALS	1,136	463	1,599

STATISTICAL RECAPITULATION BY YEAR LOST:

	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	TOTAL
MISSING	4	54	206	247	284	200	92	49	1,136
CAPTURED	3	74	93	162	113	11	4	3	463
TOTALS	7	128	299	409	397	211	96	52	1,599

International Emphasis Given To PW/MIA Problem

In an address Oct. 22 to students at the national war college in Bogota, Colombia, U.S. Air Force Brigadier General Daniel James Jr., gave international emphasis to the still unresolved problem of American Prisoners of War and Missing in Action in Southeast Asia.

Speaking at Colombia's Superior War College, Gen. James, U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs), addressed the PW/MIA problem as one of the current U. S. defense areas with particular public affairs significance. Other public affairs problems discussed related to drugs, race relations, and the withdrawal of U. S. forces from South Vietnam.

Gen. James made the trip to South America at the invitation of Colombia's Minister of Defense to represent the United States at special ceremonies marking the 20th anniversary of the entry of **Battalion Colombia** into the Korean War. The general presented two United States Presidential Unit Citations to the Colombian battalion, composed, he noted, of "fighters and winners." He said he was proud to salute them and to convey to them the high regard and respect of his countrymen.

In addressing the Southeast Asia PW/MIA problem, Gen. James termed his special responsibility for helping to focus public attention on the plight of Free World servicemen held as Prisoners of War or listed as Missing in Action in Southeast Asia as a heartbreaking part of his assignment.

PW/MIA for 8 Years

Of the approximately 1,600 men in these two categories, some have been Prisoners of War or Missing in Action for as long as eight years. Gen. James said it has not been easy traveling back and forth across the United States meeting with groups of women who have been left behind and not being able to tell them whether they are wives or widows and why we cannot get their husbands back or accounted for.

The reason, he told the Colombian military leaders, is that the other side has chosen to ignore the provisions of the 1949 Geneva Conventions. Colombia, the United States, and North Vietnam are among the more than 120 nations throughout the world which are signatories to the conventions.

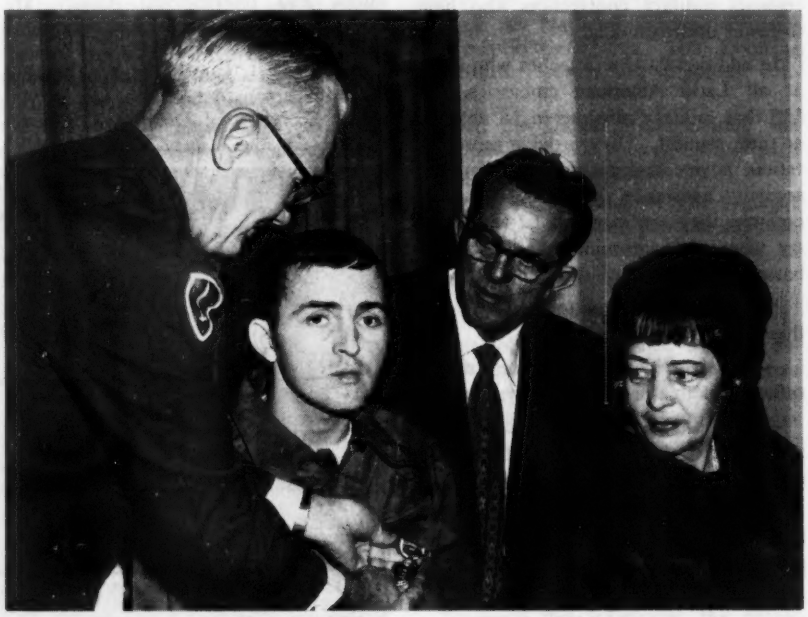
The enemy has elected instead to keep U. S. officials and families of American PW/MIAs in the dark and use these men as political pawns. The Convention relative to Prisoners of War clearly calls for a full accounting of all personnel in enemy control and humane treatment of those held captive.

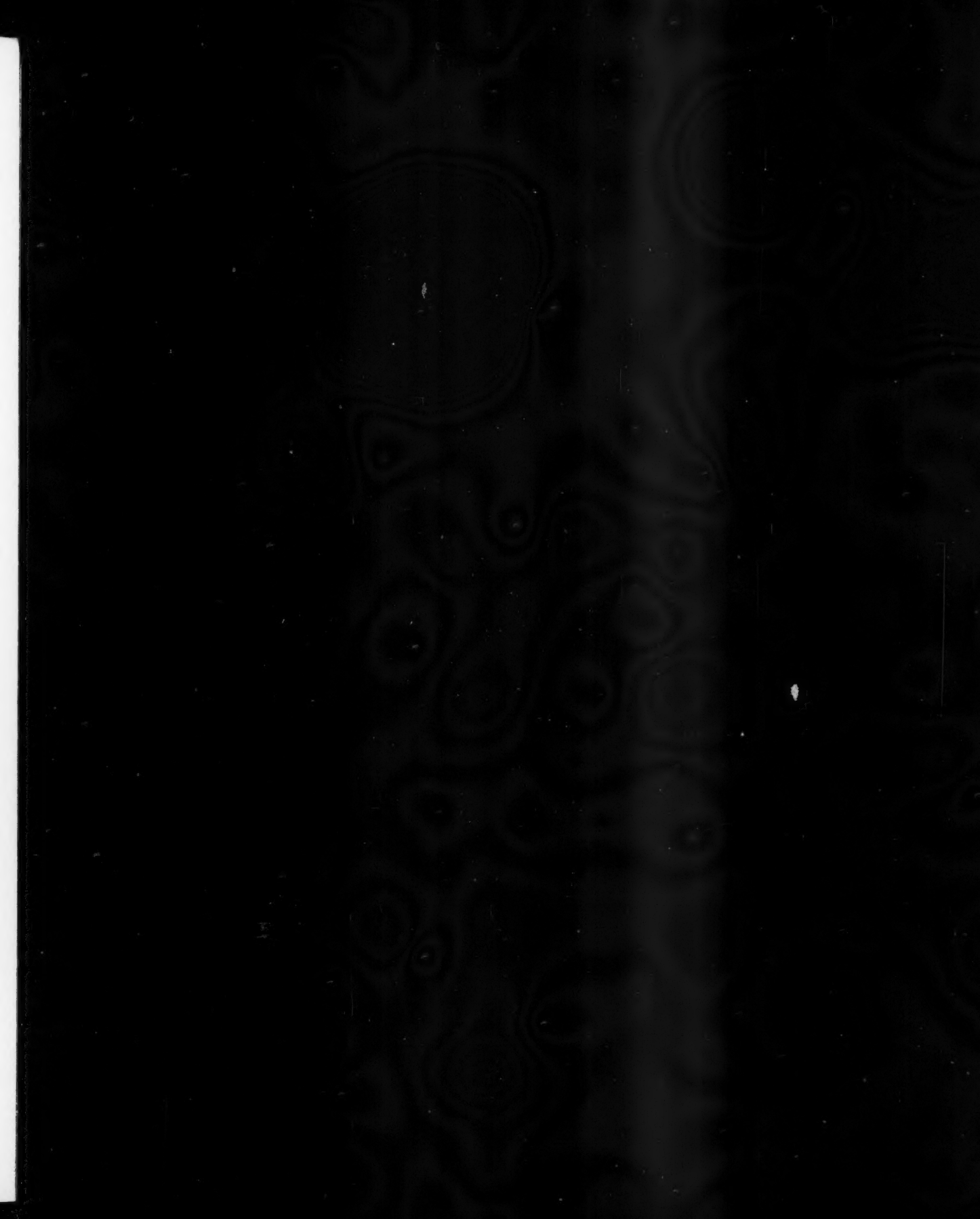
(See PW/MIA Chart on Page 7)

The other side, Gen. James said, has refused to negotiate the question although the President of the United States has generously offered to return all 38,000 Prisoners of War held for the Free World allies by the South Vietnamese in return for the release of prisoners held in North Vietnam and by the Vietcong in other Southeast Asia locations.

For a long time, the United States government tried to resolve the matter quietly through diplomatic channels. When these efforts proved fruitless, he said, it was decided to "go public" with the issue and try the other side in the court of world opinion. Efforts by the American public and by the world community toward this objective have produced some results.

The United States will never be satisfied, Gen. James said, until the approximate 1,600 PW/MIAs are all either freed or accounted for, and continues to assure PW/MIA families and the American public of this position. Meantime, he said, the families also know that the United States is doing everything it can to resolve the problem.



BEDSIDE AWARD. Army Staff Sergeant John C. Sexton Jr., released Oct. 8 by the Vietcong after more than two years in captivity, receives the Purple Heart, second Oak Leaf Cluster, from Major General James A. Wier, Commanding General of Fitzsimmons General Hospital in Denver, Colo. SSgt. Sexton was awarded the decoration for wounds received in an ambush of an armored personnel carrier Aug. 12, 1969, when he was captured. At right are his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John C. Sexton of Warren, Mich.

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